# **Downtown Livability Initiative**

### Open House and Community Discussion June 3, 2014

4:30-6:30 Open House w/ Staff to Answer

**Questions and Collect Comments** 

5:00-5:15 Short Staff Presentation

5:15-6:30 Facilitated Focus Group Discussions

Project web site located at: www.bellevuewa.gov/downtown-livability.htm



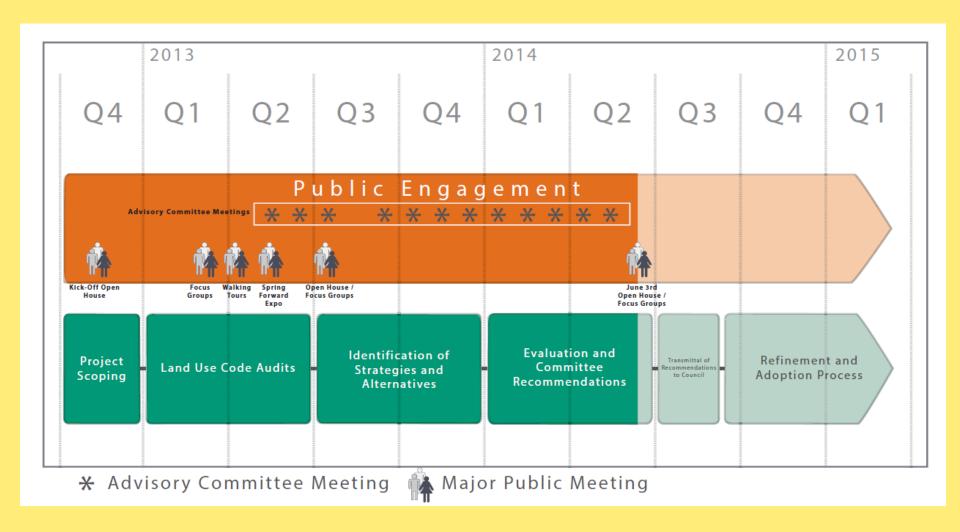




## **Project Overview**

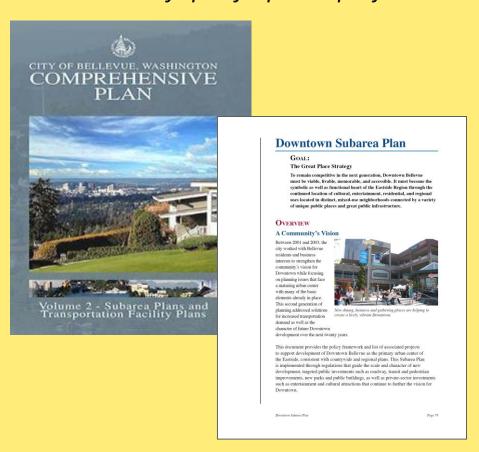
- Targeted review of regulations that guide Downtown development and land use activity
- Council priority to move this work forward
- Updates to focus on improving Downtown's livability
- Important to set the stage for future development;
   most extensive update since original 1981 Land Use Code

### Schedule

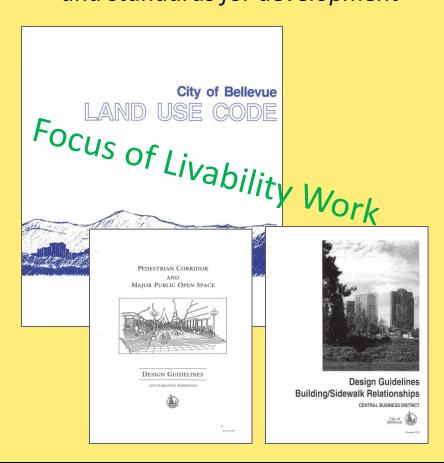


### **Downtown Framework**

Comprehensive Plan: Provides vision, goals, policies, and list of specific public projects



Land Use Code: Provides regulation, guidelines, and standards for development



## **Council Principles**

- Series of 12 principles approved by Council on 1/23/2013
- Built upon What's Changed
- Will provide guidance as project moves forward





### **Council Principles**

Downtown Livability Initiative Approved January 22, 2013

 $The over-arching purpose of this Initiative is to {\it advance implementation of the Downtown Subarea Plan, in}$ particular the Plan's central theme of making Downtown more Viable, Livable, and Memorable. The project will be guided by the existing vision set forth in the Downtown Subarea Plan, and work to more effectively implement the Plan. The focus is on the specific elements of the Land Use Code and related codes as laid out in the Project Scope approved by Council in September 2012, which includes strong coordination with the companion Downtown Transportation Plan update occurring in this same timeframe. However, if other related issues arise, the Council desires to hear about these and have the opportunity to refer them to this or another venue, such as the Major Comprehensive Plan Update.

### The Project Scope includes the following:

- Amenity incentive system Building form and height
- Design guidelines
- NE 6th Street Pedestrian Corridor
- Light rail interface
- · Downtown parking
- · Downtown signage
- · Vision for Downtown OLB district
- · Vacant sites and buildings · Recycling and solid waste

· Sidewalk widths and landscaping

Mechanical equipment screening

- · Vendor carte
- · Range of permitted uses
- Green, energy efficient, and sustainable development forms
- The Land Use Code interface with the mobility work underway through the Downtown Transportation Plan

This is the most extensive Code update since the adoption of the original Downtown Land Use Code in 1981. In the  $Intervening\ decades,\ Downtown\ Bellevue\ has\ evolved\ dramatically,\ from\ a\ bedroom\ suburb\ to\ a\ dynamic\ regional$ employment center, as well as the City's fastest growing residential neighborhood. This project should place particular emphasis on the following changes that have led to and accompanied Downtown's evolution.

### Principle

- After several development cycles since the original Code adoption, it has become increasingly clear what is working and not working with development incentives.
- Downtown Bellevue has experienced a massive influx
   Promote elements that make Downtown a for urban qualities, but also led to increased frictions that occur in a dense, mixed use environment.
- Downtown has seen a significant increase in pedestrians and street-level activity.
- O Through new development, Downtown has an opportunity to create more memorable places, as well as a distinctive skyline.

- ......... 1. Refine the incentive system to develop the
- appropriate balance between private return on investment and public benefit.
- great urban environment while also softening undesirable side effects on Downtown residents.
- 3. Increase Downtown's liveliness, street presence, and the overall quality of the pedestrian environment.
- 4. Promote a distinctive and memorable skyline that sets Downtown apart from other cities, and likewise create more memorable streets, public spaces, and opportunities for activities and events.

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and green building development. Enable er, resource, and energy ances ecological

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Il create a great visitor al tourism sector for

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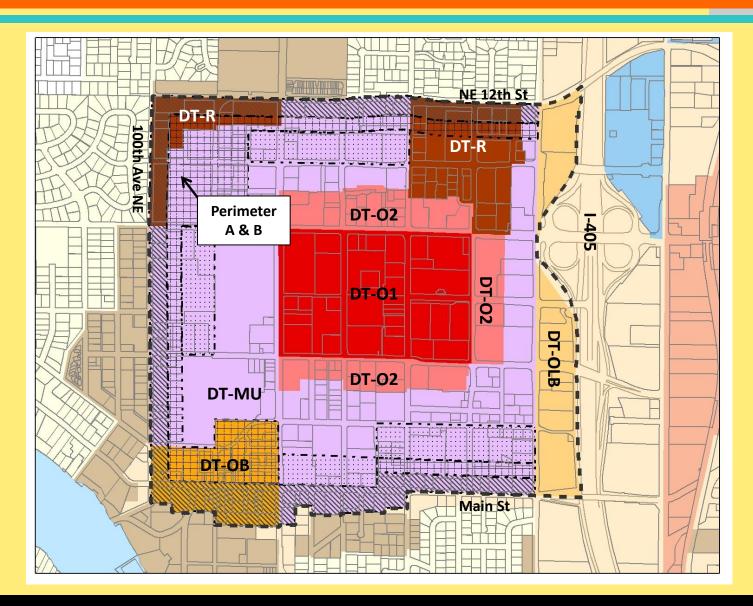
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a good balance d flexibility, in tract high quality mically feasible and

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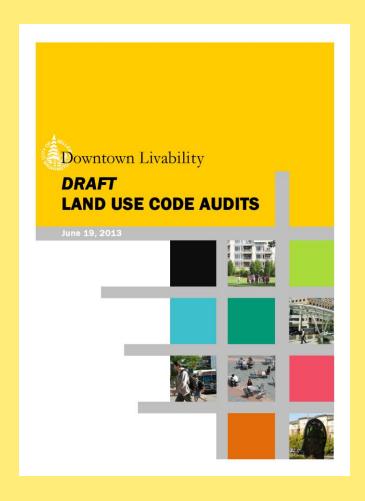
in a Park" for Downtown, es, public open space, promoting connections oen space system.

# Downtown Bellevue Study Area



## **Topical Areas**

- Pedestrian Corridor
- Public Open Space
- Amenity Incentive System
- Design Guidelines
- Building Height and Form
- Downtown Parking
- Transportation Plan Update / Station Area Planning
- Other Modules
  - Food Trucks, Mechanical Equipment
     Screening, Vacant Sites and Buildings,
     Recycling and Solid Waste, Permitted Uses



# **Small Group Discussions**

Staff Facilitator and Note-taker



Goal is to hear and capture input from the participants; relay comments to Advisory

Committee.

**Discussion Participants** 



Each group will prioritize topics to discuss.



# Questions



### **For More Information**

- Outreach will be ongoing throughout the project
- Visit: www.bellevuewa.gov/downtown-livability.htm
- Email: downtownlivability@bellevuewa.gov

